Sweeney, J. S. *The Natural Increase of Mankind.* 1926. Pp. 185.
Wooton, B. *Freedom under Planning.* 1945. Pp. 163.

Elections to the Society

THE following have been elected Fellows (starred) and Members of the *Society* during the past quarter :

Dr. A. P. Cavalcanti.
Richard Cobham, Esq.
John Dixon, Esq.
Commander T. S. Fox Pitt, O.B.E.
I. M. Librach, Esq., M.B., B.Ch.
F. R. J. Mackenzie, Esq.
Dr. M. L. Mason.
Miss Ruth Mulleny.
W. C. Northey, Esq.
*W. Linford Rees, Esq., M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.M.
*Richard Rumbold, Esq.
A. D. Sapsworth, Esq.
Bruce Stocker, Esq.
P. J. Taylor, Esq.
J. S. Weiner, Esq., M.A., Ph.D.
Dr. Isabel G. H. Wilson.

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

PSYCHOLOGY

Eysenck, H. J., Ph.D., in collaboration with **Himmelweit, H. T., M.A., Ph.D.,** and **Rees, W. Linford, M.D., B.Sc., M.R.C.P., D.P.M.** *Dimensions of Personality.* 1947. Kegan Paul. Pp. 308. Price 25s.

THIS important book could be reviewed from several standpoints. Its many interesting features, among them its bearing on eugenics, spring from its novel treatment of data belonging to one province of science by methods pertaining to another. Dr. Eysenck is a psychologist ; but the materials on which his thesis is based are mainly psychiatric. Indeed, the book might be described in one of its aspects as an application of psychological methods, some of them ingenious and original, to psychiatric material. Something is thus done to bring closer together two domains which bear to each other much the same relation as does physiology to pathology. Though formally and practically distinct, psychology and psychiatry are obviously complementary : each stimulates and fertilizes the other.

More than ten thousand normal and neurotic patients, the subjects of some three dozen separate researches, provide the material for this book. But the main conclusions were suggested by an analysis of the records made by psychiatrists of some 7,300 male and female service patients, mostly neurotic, admitted during the war to Mill Hill Emergency Hospital. The human material was thus mainly abnormal to the extent of needing the attentions of psychiatrists ; and it was in their abnormal features that Dr. Eysenck was especially interested. Particulars of these 7,300 Service patients—some 5,000 of them males and the remainder females—were entered on a document called an " item sheet," which provided answers to over 200 questions or items : these bore on the social, family, personal and clinical histories of each subject, his personality, the symptoms and findings, and the causes, diagnosis and treatment of his illness. Dr. Eysenck's central thesis emerged from an intensive study of a part only of this material —i.e. from thirty-nine items relating to 700 of the aggregate of 7,300 patients. Correlations were calculated between these thirty-nine items and the resulting table was factor analysed. There emerged four general factors, of which Dr. Eysenck's book is concerned with the first two. Both express themselves, as one would expect from the selected nature of the human material, in somewhat pathological terms.

The first is a general factor of neuroticism. Of this condition

> the commonest symptoms were those of anxiety, hysteria, depression, hypochondriasis, etc., and tended to be shown by members of all diagnostic groups. The causes of breakdown were of the same uniform character : separation from home and family, home worries, a life of

relative hardship, army discipline, the pressure of tasks physically, intellectually or temperamentally beyond them. Only in a minority of patients were the more violent stresses of war the main precipitating factor. . . . The montonous character of the precipitating cause and clinical picture was mirrored by a monotonous uniformity of the underlying personality.

The opposite pole of Dr. Eysenck's general factor for neuroticism is discerned in Webb's " w " factor as described by this author in 1915. Webb showed that such traits as perseverance in the face of obstacles, kindness, trustworthiness, conscientiousness, excellence of character and strength of will go together. Another factor designated by J. B. Maller as " c " is also apposite: it is expressed by a readiness to forego an immediate gain for the sake of a remote but greater gain. Webb's " w " and Maller's " c " factors then occupy one pole of a continuum of which the opposite pole is Dr. Eysenck's general factor for neuroticism. In order to avoid misunderstandings through what Professor Whitehead called, in another context, the " fallacy of misplaced concreteness," Dr. Eysenck denotes this factor as " P "; he refers to the less stable, the less well-organized or more neurotic part of the distribution as " P—," and to the more stable, better organized, or less neurotic part of the distribution as " P+." This " P " factor he conceives as one of the " dimensions " of personality covered by the title of his book.

The second factor emerging from Dr. Eysenck's analysis does not receive an alphabetical baptism. It covers the familiar dichotomy between introversion and extraversion. I have found Dr. Eysenck's exposition of the nature of this factor somewhat difficult to follow because the sample of 700 people from whom this factor was extracted was pre-selected on the grounds of their neurosis. Normal people no less than neurotic can be rated on the scale of which introversion and extraversion are the extremes; and if this bi-polar factor is, as Dr. Eysenck maintains, independent of the " P " factor abovementioned, then its independence would surely have been more readily demonstrable in a normal than in a neurotic population. In Dr. Eysenck's sample, the antithesis between introverts and extraverts was revealed by contrasting hysterical with " dysthymic " forms of neurosis. (The term " dysthymia " is used to denote the combination of anxiety, reactive depression and obsessional tendencies.)

The most general conclusion which emerges from Dr. Eysenck's argument might be put in this way. Spearman's " g " factor expresses intelligence and operates in the cognitive activities of the personality, " g+ " people being intelligent and " g− " people the reverse. Here is a " dimension " of the cognitive functions of the mind. The introversion-extraversion polarity expresses a comparable factor or dimension of the affective functions; and " P " plays a similar part in the conative. These three " dimensions " are also factors of the most inclusively generalized or " type " level. Strictly they are to be regarded as principles of classification. But if they are good and not bad principles, they will do more than serve a taxonomic purpose: they will give a picture of the actual structure of the mind.

That the picture of the mind they give is in fact accurate Dr. Eysenck sets out to prove in later chapters. By numerous measurements, tests, and factor studies, and by the use when appropriate of questionnaire inquiries, he shows that at what he calls the " trait " level (a lower level than the " type " in the factorial hierarchy), his basically antithetical configurations can be discerned. They are distinguished in measurements of physique and physiology, of suggestibility, of intelligence, of perseveration, of persistence, of æsthetic appreciation, of sense of humour and even perhaps of handwriting. Dr. Eysenck displays an encyclopædic familiarity with the enormous and growing literature of these diverse subjects, and not the least valuable part of his book is a compendious list, covering some twenty-four closely printed pages, of accurately documented references.

From the eugenist's standpoint, the most important feature of this book has already been indicated. Few people can doubt that Dr. Eysenck's " P " factor expresses something of indisputable social significance.

The " P positive " individual generally conforms to the description above quoted from Webb ; " P negative " individuals, if *introverts*, will

> show a tendency to develop anxiety and depression symptoms . . . they are characterized by obsessional tendencies, irritability, apathy and they suffer from a lability of the autonomic nervous system. According to their own statement, their feelings are easily hurt, they are self-conscious, nervous, given to feelings of inferiority, moody, day-dream easily, keep in the background on social occasions and suffer from sleeplessness.

On the other hand, their intelligence is comparatively high, their vocabulary excellent and they tend to be persistent. They are generally accurate, but slow ; they excel at finicking work. By contrast, neurotic *extraverts* show little energy, narrow interests, have a bad work history and are hypochondriacal. They are apt to be troubled by stammer, are accident prone, are frequently off work through illness, are disgruntled and troubled by aches and pains. Their intelligence is comparatively low, their vocabulary poor, and they show extreme lack of persistence. They tend to be quick but inaccurate and are bad at finicking work. Their level of aspiration is low, but they tend to overrate their own performance.

Hitherto, the quantitative sciences of anthropometry and psychometry have been mainly concerned with measuring physical features and cognitive faculties. Dr. Eysenck's claim that orectic qualities (that is to say expressions of personality in the spheres of affection and conation) are also measurable is clearly of great interest to the eugenist who is concerned with the complex but generally recognisable qualities which make for useful citizenship. In a recent address* to a members' meeting of the *Society*, Dr. Eysenck described his paper as a progress report in the movement towards the visionary Utopia which Galton described in the last months of his life. This book is, in one of its aspects, a fuller version of the same progress report.

A concluding word should be said about Dr. Eysenck's helpers. Indebtedness is acknowledged on the title page to Dr. Desai, Mr. W. D. Furneaux, Mr. J. Halstead, Dr. O. Marum, Mr. M. McKinlay, Mrs. A. Petrie and Dr. P. M. Yap. Professor Aubrey Lewis contributes an apposite foreword. Author and collaborators have broken new ground and opened new vistas in a valuable though somewhat difficult book.

C. P. BLACKER.

* To be published in the October 1947 REVIEW.

SOCIOLOGY

LaPiere, Richard T. *Sociology*. London and New York, 1946. McGraw-Hill. Pp. xiv + 572. Price 19s.

THIS book by the distinguished North American sociologist can be confidently recommended to the ordinary reader who wishes to learn about the subject from a slightly different angle from that of most English authors. Professor LaPiere adopts the modern view of sociology as a dynamic subject and deprecates the approach which studies sociology among primitive tribes and ignores it in the observer's own particular kind of civilization.

The subject-matter is divided into four natural divisions—an introduction to sociology, the social determinants, the social components and social differentiation.

The first part traces the development of sociology from the first fictions of folk-lore, through the work of philosophers like Herbert Spencer (who groped for the scientific method), to those whom we now regard as true scientists such as Charles Darwin. LaPiere shows in this section his powers of compression, but nevertheless emphasizes very thoroughly that the term " human nature " is a misnomer, since the observance of even the strongest tabus is an acquired trait.

The second part discusses the impact and effect of culture on social life, and distinguishes between a culture which has evolved from the early days of a people (often by the respect paid to the classical literature and its implications) and a culture which has been merely borrowed from a group of people who have become an influence by conquest or by